

Message Text

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13-12

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AF-06

ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 /115 W

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R 060023Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5723

UNCLAS USUN 0445

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG

SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REACHES DECISION ON CHANGE OF NAME
OF UN PLAZA TO ZION SQUARE

REF: USUN 420

1. NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUED NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 4 ON PROPOSAL
TO CHANGE NAME OF UNITED NATIONS PLAZA TO ZION SQUARE.
DECISION WAS REACHED TO CHANGE LOCATION OF SITE FROM WEST
SIDE OF UNITED NATIONS PLAZA BETWEEN 45 AND 46 STREETS ONLY
TO SMALL PARK ACROSS STREET FROM UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS BETWEEN
42 AND 43 STREETS. IN VIEW OF CHANGE IN LOCATION, IT WAS AGREED
THAT NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION AND USUN COULD NOT OPPOSE CHANGE
AT MEETING OF PARKS COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL ON
FEBRUARY 5.

2. CITY COUNCILMAN, WALTER WARD, INTRODUCED MEASURE WHEN
MEETING OF PARKS COMMITTEE BEGAN. STATEMENTS IN FAVOR OF
PROPOSAL WERE MADE BY CITY COUNCILMAN HENRY STERN, CITY
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PAUL O'DWYER, JUDGE ABRAHAM MULTER, COMMISSIONER
FRANCES LOEB, WHO REPORTED AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S CONCURRENCE, AND
A NUMBER OF RABBIS AND INTERESTED MEMBERS OF JEWISH NATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS.

3. STATEMENTS AGAINST PROPOSAL WERE MADE BY DR. M.T.

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MEHDI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF ACTION COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN

ARAB RELATIONS AND ALFRED LILIENTHAL, CHAIRMAN OF AMERICAN COUNCIL ON MIDDLE EAST. MEHDI STATED THAT PROPOSAL WAS AN EXPRESSION OF EMOTIONAL REACTION TO UNITED NATIONS, RATHER THAN AN ACT BASED ON RATIONAL GROUNDS IN INTEREST OF CITY. HE SAID ATTEMPT WAS NOT ONLY CHILDISH, BUT OBSCENE. HE SUGGESTED THAT AREA BETWEEN 41 AND 42 STREET AND FIRST AVENUE BE NAMES PLO SQUARE. LILIENTHAL SAID PROPOSAL WAS AN ACT OF WAR AGAINST ARABS AND AN ATTEMPT TO PUNISH UNITED NATIONS.

4. MEASURE NAMING WEST SIDE OF UNITED NATIONS PLAZA FROM 42 STREET NORTH TO EASTERLY PROLONGATION OF 43 STREET ZION SQUARE WAS APPROVED BY 10 VOTES IN FAVOR WITH ONE ABSTENTION.

5. WE EXPECT FULL COUNCIL TO PASS MEASURE WITHIN WEEK OR TWO. SOME SUPPORTERS OF MEASURE HAVE AGREED TO VOLUNTARILY REIMBURSE CITY FOR COST OF NEW NAME SIGNES. WE ASSUME SIGNS WILL BE ERECTED SPEEDILY.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, NEW YORK, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, PUBLIC PARKS, ZION SQUARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN00445
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760045-0888
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760272/aaaadljy.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2004 by meiwc>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REACHES DECISION ON CHANGE OF NAME OF UN PLAZA TO ZION SQUARE
TAGS: PFOR, PORG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006